

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AEC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

SAM-01 BIB-01 TRSY-02 /092 W
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R 222015Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6086

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USDEL SALT II GENEVA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY ON KEY ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES

REF: PARIS 1534 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE SEE NO SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF FRENCH INTENTION TO CHANGE THEIR POLICIES REGARDING NPT, MBFR OR CCD. END SUMMARY.

2. OVER THE PAST MONTHS, PARIS HAS WITNESSED A FLURRY OF PRESS SPECULATION CONCERNING LIKELIHOOD OF FRANCE SIGNING NPT IN 1975, AND FRANCE JOINING MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HAS DETECTED NO RELIABLE CONFIRMATION OF EITHER POSSIBILITY. MOREOVER, WE DOUBT THAT GISCARD WOULD SEE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO FRANCE FROM SUCH MOVE AT THIS TIME. WHATEVER POLITICAL COST -- IN TERMS OF FRENCH RELATIONS WITH ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES -- INVOLVED IN FRANCE'S STANCE OF "INDEPENDENCE" ON THESE TWO ISSUES HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID IN LARGE MEASURE. THE BENEFITS -- IN TERMS OF FRANCE'S INCREASED ROOM FOR MANEUVER ON SUBSTANCE OF THESE SUBJECTS -- REMAIN IMPORTANT TO GOF.

3. WHILE FRENCH ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY DANGERS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, THEY REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT THEIR SIGNATURE ON NPT WOULD TRANSFORM IT INTO AN EFFECTIVE IMPEDIMENT TO PROLIFERATION. FURTHERMORE, THEY REMAIN HOSTILE TO NPT BECAUSE (IN THEIR VIEW) IT GIVES APPEARANCE OF BEING AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE EXISTING NUCLEAR "MONOPOLY" ON NATIONS WHICH ARE NUCLEAR "HAVE NOTS." WHILE FRENCH PRIVATELY WANT TO GUARD THIS "MONOPOLY," THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO RISK OFFENDING "NTH" COUNTRIES BY PUBLICLY SUBSCRIBING TO NPT APPEARANCE OF "MONOPOLY."

4. FRENCH RESERVATIONS CONCERNING WISDOM OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ARE WELL KNOWN AND HAVE NOT CHANGED UNDER GISCARD. NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY SHIFT IN FRENCH POLICY TOWARD CCD.

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5. MOST RECENTLY, FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES CONFIRMED THESE FRENCH POLICIES IN AN INTERVIEW APPEARING IN THE JANUARY 19-20 EDITION OF LE MONDE (REFTEL). ON NPT, HE SAID, "WE DO NOT INTEND TO SIGN THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. WE TREAT THE PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION WITH ALL THE SERIOUSNESS THAT IT MERITS. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A NUCLEAR POWER AND WE BEHAVE ACCORDINGLY IN ALL OUR NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE IMPORTANT THING,
AS UNDERLINED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, IS TO
CREATE A SITUATION DIMINISHING THE TEMPTATION OF
NON-NUCLEAR STATES TO OBTAIN A NUCLEAR POTENTIAL."
REGARDING THE CCD AND MBFR HE SIMPLY SAID, "THE GENEVA
NEGOTIATIONS ARE SCARCELY ADVANCING AND WE MAINTAIN OUR
OBJECTIONS TO MBFR."
RUSH

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